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Amel. B.
Watbach
Patents
VIB-08
04/26/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Neirynck et al.
Application No. : 09/498,046 Confirmation No.: 8244
Filed : February 4, 2000
Title : IMMUNOPROTECTIVE INFLUENZA ANTIGEN AND ITS USE IN VACCINATION
Group Art Unit : 1648
Examiner : Shanon A. Foley

New York, New York
April 18, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 18, 2001 OFFICE ACTION

This responds to the December 18, 2001 Office Action. Kindly amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 33 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 26-28, 31, 32, 38-40 and 46 as indicated below.

Subj
B-Contd
Sub-D'

26. (Amended) An influenza antigen comprising a fusion product, said

fusion product comprising

(i) an extracellular part of an M2 membrane protein of a human influenza

A virus, or of a similar integral membrane protein of a human influenza B or C virus and

(ii) a presenting carrier,

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